

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /173 W

----- 053691

P R 231100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7175

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 2200

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - UPPER VOLTA

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 2187

1. AS PART OF FEI TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENT OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM IN NORTHERN UPPER VOLTA, TEAM RECOMMENDED (PARA 9G REFTTEL) COMBINING LIMITED NEW STORAGE CAPACITY AT SELECTED LOCATIONS NOT ACCESSIBLE DURING RAINY SEASON AND KEY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PRIOR TO MAY-'73, 1974. ROAD QUESTION PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE AREAS INVOLVED, HIGH COSTS FOR BRIDGES, CULVERTS, ETC., REQUIRED EVEN ON MINIMALLY CONSTRUCTED LATERITE SURFACES, AND DISTANCES FROM POPULATION CENTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, FULL ALL-WEATHER LATERITE SYSTEM COVERING HEAVILY AFFECTED DROUGHT AREA WOULD PROBABLY COST IN EXCESS OF DOLS US 10 MILLION. IN RELATION TO PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS IN ALL SIX COUNTRIES AND WITHIN UPPER VOLTA, TEAM FEELS THAT DOLS US 250,000 TO DOLS300,000 PROBABLY LIMIT OF RANGE THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED. FOR THIS AMOUNT, UPPER VOLTA WOULD POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO IMPROVE MOST CRITICAL ROAD AREA NORTH OF DORI TOWARD GOROM-GOROM/MARKOYE PERMITTING GOOD, IF NOT COMPLETE ALL-WEATHER ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MAJOR

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AFFECTED ARE. WITH STORAGE RECOMMENDED, MOST MAJOR

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION NEEDS FROM 1974 ONWARD CAN BE HANDLED BY INDIGENOUS SURFACE TRANSPORT. THIS SOLUTION, HOWEVER, WILL NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE SERIOUS COMMUNICATION PROBLEM WHICH THE TEAM WOULD RECOMMEND FOR ATTENTION AS MEDIUM-TERM ASSISTANCE POSSIBLY IN CONCERT WITH OTHER DONORS.

2. THE SERVICES OF A ROAD ENGINEER ARE IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED IN UPPER VOLTA NOT ONLY TO DEAL WITH URGENT GOROM-GOROM/MARKOYE PROPOSAL AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION METHODS (BAILEY BRIDGES, ETC.) BUT ALSO TO CONSIDER NATURE AND EXTENT OF ANY MEDIUM-TERM ROAD ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED. ENGINEER SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR IMMEDIATE VISIT. ADVISE PRIORITY TO OUAGADOUGOU, ABIDJAN, NIAMEY AND PARIS FOR FEL. EASUM

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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